

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 02401 102114Z

65-15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 FEA-01

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-03 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /130 W

----- 079721

P R 091815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1520

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USUN 467

US MISSION GENEVA 658

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2401

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A G R A P H N U M B E R I N G

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, MO, SP

SUBJ: EXACERBATION OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN

FISHING INCIDENTS

REF: RABAT 1662

1. SUMMARY: ON HEELS OF SPANISH PROTEST FOR FIRING ON  
SPANISH FISHING VESSEL APR 2, SPANISH DESTROYER AND NAVAL  
EXCORT INTERCEPTED MOROCCAN PATROL BOAT APR 7, FREEING  
ONE SEIZED SPANISH FISHING VESSEL WHILE ALLOWING SECOND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 02401 102114Z

CAPTURED VESSEL TO BE LED TO MOROCCAN PORT OWING TO FEAR

OF SPANISH CAPTAIN THAT MOROCCANS WOULD SHOOT HIM.  
ACCORDING TO MFA, LATEST INCIDENTS ARE UNRELATED  
TO OTHER OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES, E.G., SAHARA AND  
PRESIDIOS, HOWEVER, SPANISH MEDIA AND COMMENTATORS UNDER-  
SCORE SERIOUSNESS OF INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY

2. NAVY MINISTRY RELEASED STATEMENT APRIL 8 REPORTING THAT  
ON PREVIOUS EVENING CAPTAIN GENERAL OF MARITIME ZONE OF  
STRAITS LEARNED THAT SPANISH FISHING VESSEL HAD BEEN  
INTERCEPTED BY MOROCCAN PATROL BOAT SOME 30 NAUTICAL  
MILES SOUTH OF CADIZ AND 35 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST  
OF TANGIER. GOS DISPATCHED DESTROYER "LANGARA" AND  
CORVETTE "NAUTILUS" TO AREA. AFTER REPEATED BUT  
FUTILE EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH MOROCCAN PATROL  
BOAT (NO 51). DESTROYER FREED ONE FISHING VESSEL,  
SEIZING AT THE SAME TIME TWO ARMED MOROCCAN SEAMEN ON  
BOARD. DESTROYER WAS UNABLE TO FREE SIX MEMBERS OF  
THIS FISHING BOAT'S CREW WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED  
TO MOROCCAN PATROL BOAT. CORVETTE MEANWHILE TRIED TO  
FREE SECOND SPANISH VESSEL, BUT DESISTED IN RESPONSE TO  
PLEAS OF CAPTAIN WHO SAID THAT MOROCCAN SEAMEN THREATENED  
TO KILL HIM WITH MACHINE GUN. DESTROYER, CORVETTE, AND  
FIRST FISHING VESSEL HAVE RETURNED TO CADIZ WHILE SECOND  
FISHING VESSEL HAS BEEN ESCORTED BY MOROCCAN PATROL  
BOAT TO MOROCCAN PORT.

3. THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE EXACTLY THREE DAYS FOLLOWING  
GOS OFFICIAL PROTEST LODGED WITH GOM THROUGH LATTER'S  
AMBASSADOR IN MADRID FOR FIRING ON SPANISH FISHING  
VESSEL APRIL 2 (REFTEL.). ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS,  
CAPTAIN OF VESSEL FIRED UPON REPORTED THAT MOROCCANS  
"SHOT TO KILL". SEVEN OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF CREW WERE  
SEIZURE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

4. MFA OFFICIAL ALSO NOTED THAT SPAIN AND MOROCCO HAVE  
MANY MUTUAL INTERESTS AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING,  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD NEARLY SIMILAR  
POLITION ON LOS ISSUE OF "INNOCENT PASSAGE" IN STRAITS.  
HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE RECENT INDICATIONS THAT MOROCCO,  
IN RESPONSE TO STRONG "OUTSIDE" PRESSURES, MIGHT BE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 02401 102114Z

ALTERING ITS POSITION.

5. COMMENT: RESTRAINT EXERCISED BY SPANISH MILITARY  
AUTHORITIES IN APRIL 2 AND APRIL 7 INCIDENTS WOULD TEND  
TO CONFIRM GOS ATTITUDE DESCRIBED BY MFA OFFICIAL. GOS  
DOES NOT WANT TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO AT  
THIS JUNCTURE, PARTICULARLY ON FISHING ISSUES WHICH TWO  
COUNTRIES SOUGHT TO RESOLVE BY AGREEMENT REACHED

JAN 1, 1974. AT SAME TIME, TWO GOVTS MUST NOW FIND  
FACE-SAVING MEANS FOR RETURN OF TWO MOROCCAN NAVAL SEAMEN  
AND SIX CREWMEN (ANTIONALITY UNKNOWN) OF SPANISH FISHING  
VESSEL AS WELL AS RETURN OF SEIZED SECOND VESSEL.  
ACCORDING TO EMBASSY COUNT, MOROCCO HAS SEVEN ADDITIONAL  
SPANISH FISHING VESSELS WHICH WERE SEIZED IN PAST TWO  
WEEKS; THREE IN AGADIR, ONE IN TANGIER, AND THREE IN  
ANOTHER UNSPECIFIED PORT. LOCAL MEDIA HAVEE GIVEN FRONT-  
PAGE TREATMENT TO MOROCCAN ACTIONS, WHICH WERE  
ALSO COVERED IN TELECASTS, AND SPANISH FISHING  
ORGANIZATION--AN IMPORTANT PRESSURE GROUP--CAN BE  
EXPECTED TO KEEP SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPMENTS. TWO ULTRA  
CONSERVATIVE MILITRY MEMBERS OF CORTES ALSO RAISED ISSUE  
IN PARLIAMENTARY FORUM APR 8, WARNING THAT SPAIN'S  
PATIENCE HAS LIMITS.

6. REACTION TIME--TWO AND THREE-QUARTERS HOUR-- OF  
SPANISH NAVAL FORCES WAS IMPRESSIVE. ACCORDING TO DATT,  
GOS MILITARY AUTHORITIES DENY THAT THEY MAINTAIN PATROLS  
IN AREAS ADJACENT TO FISHING WATERS SHARED WITH  
MOROCCO, BUT IT IS ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT SOME FORM OF  
STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT IS IN EFFECT IN THESE AREAS.  
STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, FISHING BOATS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID02401  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750125-0643  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750468/aaaacjzc.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 RABAT 1662  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchandr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXACERBATION OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN FISHING INCIDENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, MO, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006